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Part of a larger project contributing to a better understanding of climate change impacts to contaminants, and human and wildlife health.

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June Contest Results

Congratulations to Margaret Ivory for being the first to properly identify the dolly varden. Kevin Foley was the first to provide the defining characteristics. Dollies:

- tend to have a less-forked tail with a thicker base and black in the mouth.
 - They're usually red or pink on the lower abdomen with bright red spots during spawning (Arctic char are usually gold, orange, yellow, or rose and only infrequently red).
 - Spawning male Dollies also tend to have a larger kype (hooked lower jaw).
 - Generally, Arctic char tend to have fewer and larger light-colored spots.
- Charleen Veach provided a link to this [nifty article](#) for those looking for more information.

July Contest

This one if for those math-minded among us. How much longer would you need to make a rope wrapped around the world in order for it to be one foot off the ground everywhere?



[A hint & real-world application can be found here.](#)

[Click here](#) to send me your answer!

Seeking Input for Terrestrial Systems Focal Topic

As part of its [science strategy](#), the Western Alaska LCC focuses its energy and financial resources on a specific topic important to land and resource decision makers

in Western Alaska. This allows us to stimulate momentum and progress on the complex, climate-related science needs of the region. The focal topic changes every two years, and in FY16-17 we'll be focusing on a topic within the *Terrestrial Systems* theme. We've begun to plan for that work, and our [Steering Committee](#) has chosen four potential *Terrestrial Systems* topics.

- Connections between climate, vegetation change and important resources/services in western Alaska
- State of the vegetation in western Alaska
- Climate change effects on terrestrial systems in western Alaska
- Climate change effects on terrestrial habitat features and their associated impact on important resources/services



To ensure that the science we pursue effectively meets the needs of the management community, **we are seeking input for final topic selection.** Specifically, we are interested in the types of management questions that could be better answered if information gaps related to a one of the above topics were addressed.

In the coming weeks, you can expect to hear about opportunities to provide input from your Steering Committee representatives. You can also [get the details here](#) and send your responses to one of your representatives by **August 20th, 2014**. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

USFWS Steering Committee members:

Doug Damberg (doug_damberg@fws.gov)

Rick Lanctot (richard_lanctot@fws.gov)

Doug McBride (doug_mcbride@fws.gov)

Tevis Underwood (tevis_underwood@fws.gov)

Aleutian &

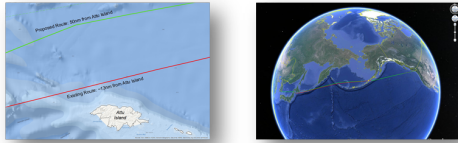
Bering Sea Islands LCC

Conservation & Economics: What Difference Does 50nm Make?

Arctic LCC

Rural Communities' Test for Contaminants Contribute to Better Understanding and Health

Fig. 1 - Click for larger image



The ABSI LCC is working with the Wildlife Conservation Society and SNAP on an analysis of over 70 million vessel locations to document major shipping routes transiting the Aleutian archipelago. Preliminary results were presented at a meeting of the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment Advisory Panel meeting in April 2014, and were used in consideration of vessel routing recommendations. One heavily used route passes less than 20 nm north of Attu Island (figure 1). The AIRA recommends that this route be modified to maintain a minimum distance of 50 nm from Attu. Much like the rope around the earth problem, this change would only add 4 nm to the overall journey of more than 4,400 nm. The greater distance from Attu would increase the amount of response time in the event that a vessel loses power and goes adrift. The ABSI LCC will also support an additional study to look at the areas most vulnerable to vessel groundings, which will inform decisions about vessel routes and spill response capabilities.

[More information](#)

North Pacific LCC

Diverse Partnership Incorporates Climate Change into Management &



Climate change is increasing the amount of heavy metals and other anthropogenic contaminants in the circumpolar food chain. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), with support from Arctic LCC, is seeking to better understand the effects of these contaminants, especially as they affect rural communities heavily engaged in subsistence activities. The ANTHC developed a village climate and health impact assessment tool. Capacity was created for residents in the Native Village of Selawik to use the tool on hunter-killed meats. As these tools become adopted on a wider scale, the Rural Alaska Monitoring Program (RAMP) aims to reduce the exposure to contaminants, improve data on wildlife and human health, and improve understanding on transport of contaminants and pathogens.

[More information](#)

Northwest Boreal LCC

Northwest Territories' Engagement Important for International Collaboration

Conservation Efforts



The NPLCC recently held their in-person Steering Committee meeting in Lacey, WA. Among attendees were Alaskan representatives from National Park Service, State of Alaska, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and U.S. Geological Survey. The group of approximately 35 attendees spent two days strengthening partnerships, networking, and discussing incorporation of climate change into management and conservation efforts in Alaska and throughout the NPLCC region.

Learn more about the July Steering Committee meeting [here](#).



The Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative recently held a successful Steering Committee meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The meeting was well-attended by representatives from Alaska, Yukon, British Columbia, and for the first time, by an in-person representative from the government of the Northwest Territories (NWT). The NWT has recently undergone the process of devolution, granting the Territory the same rights of local control as that of other Canadian Provinces and the Yukon. This higher level of local governance over land and water resources provides the NWT a unique opportunity to more fully engage with the LCC and its members throughout Northwest Canada and Alaska. The Steering Committee meeting agenda included the identification of priority species for landscape planning within the LCC, a review of ongoing and recently completed LCC-supported projects, and a review of the draft NWB LCC Strategic Plan.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Webinars

North Pacific LCC Conservation Planning Atlas Introduction

Thursday, August 7; 9am-10:30 am AKDT

NPLCC Science-Management Webinar

Join the NPLCC for a USFWS-specific introduction to the [Conservation Planning Atlas](#) to learn about and provide feedback on how this tool can be most useful for USFWS.

[Register here](#)

A Climate-Smart Approach to Adaptive Management of North-central CA Coast and Ocean Habitats, Species, and Ecosystem Services

Thursday, August 7; 11am-12pm AKDT

Science Applications Webinar

[Further information](#)

El Niño and Alaska - Past, Present, and Future

Tuesday, August 26; 10-11am AKDT

ACCAP Webinar Series

[Further information](#)

Workshop

Workshop on Mixed-Effect Models

August 18-20; Chena Hot Springs Resort, Fairbanks

[More information here](#) -or- contact Anna-Marie_Benson@fws.gov.

What's New in Alaska Region Science?

MacCracken, J. G., Lemons III, P. R., Garlich-Miller, J. L., & Snyder, J. S. (2014). *An Index of Optimum Sustainable Population for the Pacific Walrus*. Ecological Indicators. 43: 36-43.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X14000715>

We would like to feature your recent publications and/or datasets here!
If you have something you'd like to bring to a larger audience, please contact: brett_parks@fws.gov.

MailChimp.